# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4312
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2016
Gender Sensitization in Schools
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government intends to introduce mandatory modules in schools for gender sensitization to promote respect and a non-discriminatory attitude towards women, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(b) whether the Government also intends to make offering counselling mandatory at schools so that there may be a channel available to the kids to bring forth their grievances against exploitation?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a): Though the Government does not intend to introduce mandatory modules in schools, the Ministry has been addressing it on priority. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 emphasizes gender as an important guiding principle in all curricular areas and stipulates that gender be an integral part of all disciplines offered to children at the school stage. Gender concerns have been integrated in the curriculum and in the textbooks drawn up by the National Council of Education & Training (NCERT) and widely used by the schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and also in several State Governments. The State Councils of Education Research & Training (SCERT) which prescribe textbooks for State Government schools have also redesigned school textbooks to make these gender positive.
The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has a scheme of School Based Examination in classes IX-X. The values highlighted under the scheme emphasize upon removing the practices derogatory to the dignity of women and respecting opposite gender. The Board has also been implementing the Adolescence Education Programme for the past seven years and the Manuals being used for these training programmes include activities related to Gender Sensitization. The Board has introduced an elective course 'Human Rights and Gender Studies' for classes XI and XII from session 2014-15 onwards.
(b): Though the Government does not intend to make counseling mandatory at schools, the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 has articulated the need to provide guidance and counselling in schools to deal with stress related problems and to guide students, parents and teachers to lessen the students' stress. The NCERT has developed guidelines on this for the secondary stage teachers and also for the state functionaries under the RMSA and it takes care of this aspect in all its capacity building programmes conducted for the states/UTs at the secondary and higher secondary stage.
As per clause 53(5) of the affiliation Bye-Laws of the CBSE, every secondary and senior secondary school shall appoint a person on full time basis for performing the duties of a Counsellor. Schools having enrolment of less than 300 students in classes from IX to XII can appoint a counselor on part-time basis. The Board conducts periodic inspections of the schools to ensure the availability of the prescribed facilities.
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